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U.S. Waste-Reclamation Service

Waste reclamation: organization, functions...

Washington

1919

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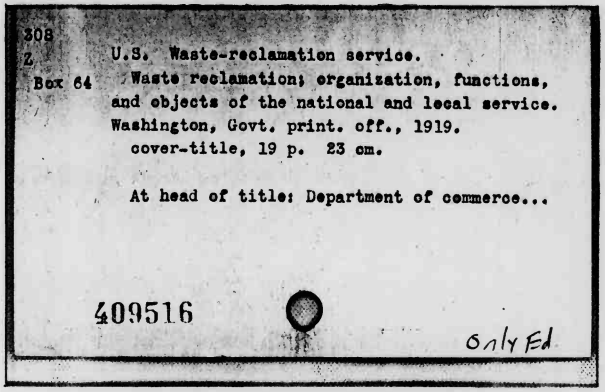

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Waste-Reclamation Service

WASTE RECLAMATION

Organization, Functions, and Objects of the National and Local Service

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1919

WHAT TO SAVE

PLAIN white cotton or linen rags, linen sheets, collars, cuffs, pillowcases, etc., unbleached cotton or linen scraps and small pieces and cuttings, old table linens, dress goods, damasks, towels, old awnings, canvas, soiled or clean colored rags; books, magazines, newspapers, wrapping paper, paper bags, pasteboard containers of all kinds; iron, steel, copper, brass, tin foil: rubber.

WASTE RECLAMATION: ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS, AND OBJECTS OF THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL SERVICE.

PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES OF COUNCILS.

INTRODUCTION.

The work that has formerly been done by the Waste-Reclamation Section of the War Industries Board has been transferred to the Department of Commerce and will be continued as the "Waste-Reclamation Service" of this Department. Organized to meet a vital war emergency, resulting from a shortage of war materials, the Waste-Reclamation Section has rendered a very valuable service in beginning the campaign of education necessary to get the American people in the habit of saving the many things that they have been accustomed to throw away. Although much work has been done, the surface has scarcely been scratched as yet. It is hoped that the work may be so developed that a large amount of the waste material of the Nation may be reclaimed and restored to industrial uses.

The plan contemplates the establishment of a national waste-reclamation system—comprehensively organized, effective and systematic, and animated by a sympathetic understanding of the purposes and principles of the Service. Thus the importance of the work will gain wide recognition. It will appear in its true light as an essential element in economic life. And it is therefore the earnest expectation of the Service that, as soon as practicable, it will be taken over by the several municipalities or other local governments and made permanent through the creation of a department or bureau for the salvage of waste materials. It is the intention to secure, wherever possible, appropriate legislation for the attainment of that end. Until such time as that result is accomplished, the work is to be carried on through the agency of local Waste-Reclamation Councils.

With little trouble or inconvenience, the Waste-Reclamation Councils can contribute very substantially to the economic well-being of the country as a whole. They will be stimulating the energies and directing the activities of the community along sound, admirable, socially advantageous lines. And the saving of waste materials so that they can be quickly remanufactured is not only a patriotic duty, it is also a large and important source of revenue for those who have such things to sell.

It is the province of childhood to destroy; it is the duty of manhood to preserve and reclaim. Young America, having passed the copper-toed period of existence, must assume the responsibilities of manhood. We must conserve every scrap of our resources in order to meet the necessary burdens of the future. The war has taught us how much we can do; peace should show us how much *more* we can do.—*Thomas R. Marshall, Vice President of the United States.*

The national resources of America, so heavily drawn upon, will be conserved. The war program has made unusual demands on those resources, and this demand will continue because of the necessity for replacing things destroyed. The greatest agency to relieve the consequent strain will be the salvaging of waste material.

During the war special attention has been given to the reclamation of certain materials that were urgently needed. But there must be no relaxation in such efforts. The work must be continued uninterruptedly; it must be extended and vigorously followed up. Its value is incalculable. It will accelerate American industry; it will facilitate trade expansion; it will create a new attitude toward conservation and the husbanding of materials.

Waste reclamation is a peace necessity as well as a war exigency. Reconstruction and readjustment require the exercise of such economy no less than the task of defending the national honor and defeating the foreign foe.

COOPERATING BODIES.

Cooperating with the Waste Reclamation Service of the Department of Commerce are the following Government Departments and national organizations:

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

A. United States Army.
United States Navy.
United States Department of Labor.
United States Department of Agriculture.
United States Treasury Department.
United States Post Office Department.
United States Railroad Administration.
Federal Board for Vocational Education.

COOPERATING NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

B. Council of National Defense.
American Federation of Labor.
American Red Cross.
National Y. M. C. A.
National Catholic War Council.
United States Chamber of Commerce.

This reclamation movement will save millions and possibly billions in raw materials or in that which, having served its purpose once, may be made a raw material and serve its purpose again.—*Former President William H. Taft.*

Jewish Welfare Board.
Salvation Army.
Boy Scouts of America.
Girl Scouts.
The National League for Woman's Service.
National Council of Women.
International Association of Rotary Clubs.
National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor.
National War Savings Committee.

ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL WASTE-RECLAMATION COUNCILS.

1. The local Waste-Reclamation Council should be composed of representatives of cooperating national organizations, selected by the mayor or chief executive officer of the city, town, or village through the local branch officers or membership of such organizations. In case there are no local branches of the cooperating national organizations, the mayor may appoint representative citizens from civic, fraternal, and religious organizations, or through any other agency that may be deemed best. The members will meet for organization purposes at the call of the mayor or chief executive officer. At the organization meeting a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary will be selected.

2. *When the mayor or chief executive has selected the membership of a Council, he should at once send in the names of the representatives, together with the names of the national organizations represented by each, the date of organization, and the names and local addresses of the chairman and secretary elected.*

It is suggested that the appointment of the following committees would be desirable, in order to enable the Council to perform its functions in the most effective and expeditious manner:

3. *Publicity committee.*—A publicity committee should be chosen, composed of as many members as necessary—one member from each daily newspaper; one member representing the theatre and motion-picture managers; one representing the city bill posters; one representing the advertising managers of the different department stores, etc. The purpose of this committee will be, of course, to secure publicity for the Council through local newspapers, space on theater programs, the exhibition of slides in connection with motion pictures, and the contributing by department stores of a small space in their regular newspaper advertising.

During the war we have devoted time and attention to prevent waste—wastage of life, wastage of health, and wastage of material—and now that the war has ended and we have learned this important lesson, we should put it into practice every day of our lives. It will make us a rich people if we save what we have been wasting.—*Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy.*

4. *Committee on affiliated organizations.*—The duties of this committee will be to invite representatives from all fraternal, religious, patriotic, and civic organizations in the city to send representatives to a subsequent meeting of the Council to adopt plans for the cooperation of such organizations in the waste-reclamation movement of the Council.

5. *Mass-meeting committee.*—A committee of three or five should arrange for a public mass meeting to which all organized bodies of the city should be asked to send representatives. This meeting should be presided over by the mayor or some prominent citizen. Addresses should be given, explaining and advocating the objects of the Council, by representatives of the Red Cross and Salvation Army, city or county superintendents of public schools, judges of the courts, prominent clergymen, and representative citizens.

6. *Waste dealers committee.*—A committee of three or five should be chosen to interview waste-material dealers (junk men) and make arrangements with them for the collection and disposal of all waste materials, the establishment of prices, etc. Arrangements should be made with the waste dealers for the collection and sale of waste materials for each special week assigned to the collection of the different commodities; for instance, one week will be known as "Paper week," another "Metal week," another "Rubber week," etc., with intervals of two weeks between each "drive" or special week.

7. *Committee on appeal.*—A committee of three should be appointed to draft an appeal requesting all citizens to save waste materials of all kinds. This appeal can be given publicity by means of the local newspapers and by circulars distributed to the householders, stores, factories, etc. Arrangements can possibly be made through the postmaster for the distribution of these circulars. The electric light company, gas company, etc., could undoubtedly be induced to send out in their regular monthly bills a small card, provided by the Council, giving the householder instructions regarding the separation of paper and waste materials generally, together with the telephone number of the Council office with which they could communicate when desiring to dispose of waste material.

8. The committees mentioned are suggested for the purpose of organization, but the details of the plan are not binding. Each Council can adopt such methods of procedure as may be found necessary in order to meet local conditions.

Among the valuable and most needed lessons we have partly learned from the war is that of thrift. Thrift helped win the war and will help us to take full advantage of a glorious peace. It is imperative that we do not relax into old habits of wastefulness.—*Carter H. Glass, Secretary of the Treasury.*

DUTIES OF COUNCIL.

9. It will be the duty of the Council to inaugurate an educational campaign to conserve materials so as to make less waste, together with a reclamation movement that shall reclaim the residue of waste in the community, thus conserving the resources of the country both in man power and in materials. The most important materials to reclaim at the present time are:

Paper.	**Brass.**	**Babbitt metal.**
Steel.	**Cotton.**	**Tin foil.**
Copper.	**Zinc.**	**Lead.**
Wool.	**Aluminum.**	**Tin.**
Iron.	**Rubber.**	**Leather.**

10. As indicated above, the Council can obtain the desired publicity in inaugurating this movement through the local newspapers, religious and fraternal organizations, etc., or through any other agency that it may deem best.

11. The Council should make arrangements, through a committee, with the junk or wholesale dealers for the collection of materials and their purchase from the home or factory at guaranteed prices for a fixed period.

12. The Council should arrange a system of salvaging the waste materials from the households, stores, and factories in each community by having the junk men make calls at fixed periods—a sign to be hung out, as a notice to him, by the householder or business house.

13. The town or city should be divided into zones or districts for collection purposes and a systematic canvass made of all the homes, office buildings, apartment houses, factories, and Federal, State, and municipal buildings or institutions.

14. Regular weekly collection hours in each locality should be fixed by the local Council for the convenience of the householders, store and factory owners, and junk men, with a view to the saving of time and man power.

15. *Each Council should devise means for keeping an accurate account in pounds of the different materials reclaimed in its community, and should record the amounts on the monthly report blank sent by the Waste-Reclamation Service.* The various prices for the different

Waste reclamation is a question of both national prudence and individual gain. The demand of to-day is for personal thrift and efficiency, and the fullest possible utilization of national resources. The sacrifices and rigid regulations of war are to be transformed into the constructive energies, the diligent, painstaking economies of peace.—*William C. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce.*

commodities can be kept accurately, as prices are fixed for certain periods.

16. Each Council should require every junk or wholesale dealer to keep an accurate account of all materials bought by him, in order that the monthly report, sent by the Council to the Waste-Reclamation Service, may be correct.

17. For the use of the Council a report blank and franked envelopes are furnished. *These reports must be mailed to the Waste-Reclamation Service the first of each month, showing a record of the previous month. These reports are absolutely necessary in order that an accurate and complete record may be kept of the reclamation of waste materials.*

18. Each Council should inaugurate Waste Reclamation Weeks as soon as proper publicity can be given by local newspapers, boards of trade, merchants' associations, civic, fraternal, and religious organizations, etc. One week can be devoted to the reclamation of all waste paper and cotton rags, one week to metals, one to rubber, etc. Great care should be exercised by each Council in the care and disposal of the waste materials gathered during that week. Arrangements should be made with the junk or wholesale dealers (prior to Waste Reclamation Weeks) for the collection and sale of all waste materials. Arrangements should be made by the Council for the use during a Waste Reclamation Week of some vacant storeroom in each zone or district for the sorting and disposal of all waste materials gathered.

19. Every form of volunteer aid should be used to assist the junk or wholesale dealers, under the direction of the Council, in the gathering of all waste materials in the different districts of the city.

20. The Council should notify the owner, agent, or janitor of every apartment house that waste paper should be saved, not burned, and that the owner, agent, or janitor should notify the Council to arrange for the collection of the waste paper saved.

21. In communities where there are at present no junk or wholesale dealers in the materials desired to be reclaimed, it will be the duty of the Council to organize a system of collection of such materials from the homes and factories in its community. Full information will be furnished by the Waste-Reclamation Service as to the disposal of all materials collected, the intent being at all times to ship such materials to the nearest point of consumption or use, thus avoiding long haulage.

In my opinion one of the most hearty movements of the present time, which has gained added momentum from the necessities of the war, is the great and growing tendency of our people to reclaim and use again the vast quantities of waste material which formerly (largely, I think, because of our great abundance) we were too apt to abandon. This spirit of economy, it is not too much to say, will necessarily result in the addition of incalculable millions to our wealth.—*Bernard M. Baruch, Chairman War Industries Board.*

22. The Waste-Reclamation Service will furnish each Council with the names and locations of the nearest plants buying waste materials. This will be done, however, only where the local Council is unable to dispose of such materials in its own locality through junk or wholesale dealers. In many cities arrangements can be made by the Council for the utilization of the present municipal machinery for the collection and disposal of the materials reclaimed. For the collection and sorting of such materials, the city could employ, wherever possible, prisoners in city and county jails.

23. A valuable source of waste paper for reclamation purposes will be found in Federal, State, county, and municipal buildings, office buildings, printing offices, factories, etc. To illustrate the saving by gathering waste paper, one need only cite the case of the city of Edinburgh, Scotland, where $26,000 was received in one year from the sale of waste paper.

24. In saving the waste materials the householders, stores, and factories should keep them separated as much as possible. This will result in a saving of time and man power and will insure greater convenience in having materials weighed and paid for at the price fixed for the different classes of waste.

25. Whenever the Council finds it necessary to ship waste material in car lots, it is suggested that the local freight officials be consulted for information as to rates, since in many sections of the country rates for waste materials have been provided for.

26. The Council, by a public appeal through the newspapers, can ask for donations from householders, banks, public institutions, and factories of waste materials to be sold to the waste-material dealers or junk men, to create a treasury fund for the use of the Council in meeting incidental expenses.

27. A small circular giving instructions to the householders, apartment houses, mills, and factories for the collection and disposal of waste materials, together with the prices at which they are to be sold, will usually be furnished by a job printer or store for the privilege of having the advertisement of the printer or store inserted in it. These circulars can be distributed free of cost to the householders, stores, and factories (through arrangements made with the mayor or chief of police) by the policemen or (through the courtesy of the postmaster) by the letter carriers.

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To be successful in the intense commercial competition in the years to come, our people must be efficient and eliminate waste in all its forms; for efficiency is simply the fullest and best use of men and material.—*George W. Goethals, Major General, Assistant Chief of Staff, Director of Purchase, Storage, and Traffic, War Industries Board.*

28. As part of the general plan for the reclamation of waste materials, it is intended to use the man power of prisoners in the various institutions of the country in sorting and baling waste at the prisons that are conveniently located for this purpose. Prison labor should be utilized outside of prisons in sorting and baling waste materials whenever it is deemed practical to do this. The employment of prison labor, however, must be done in accordance with the Executive order of the President dated September 14, 1918, from which the following excerpt is taken: "Compensation and hours of labor for inmates of any institution shall be based upon the standard hours and wages prevailing in the vicinity in which the institution is located. The pro rata cost of maintaining the inmates shall be deducted from their compensation."

As to the desirability of the reclamation of waste materials such as cotton and woolen rags, paper stock, metals, etc., there can be no argument. With the great demand for relief material that is already beginning to show itself, every addition that we can make to the sources of supply of raw material will be most helpful.—*Robert E. Peabody, Chief Woolens Section, War Industries Board.*

This plan of the National Waste-Reclamation Council must not stop with the termination of the war. Its continuance will mean the saving of millions and will teach the Nation economy.—*John W. Westcott, Attorney General of New Jersey.*

The waste in this country last year exceeded the necessities used.—*Charles M. Schwab, Bethlehem Steel Co., formerly Director General Emergency Fleet Corporation.*

The economies forced upon us by the war have called attention to the immense amount of our waste, which would enrich a small nation. One of the most useful lessons of the war will have been lost if the work of the National Waste-Reclamation Council is not permanently continued.—*Robert T. Brookings, Chairman Price Fixing Committee, War Industries Board.*

Just as it is of supreme importance that all should be producers, it is of equal value that what is produced should be made to serve the highest purpose. Our Nation will be vastly richer and better and our people taught economy if they are shown how to reclaim and conserve the wastage now appearing on every hand. In other words, conservation is one method of production, and the Waste-Reclamation Council has a great end to achieve.—*John R. Mott, General Secretary, Y M. C. A.*

The reclamation of material wasted in this country is of vital importance, in time of peace as well as in time of war. Waste of material means waste of human labor. It tends to lower production and lower wages and exhaust the natural resources of the Nation. It is to be hoped that the measures to save waste inaugurated in war exigencies will be efficiently continued in time of peace.—*Samuel Gompers, President, American Federation of Labor.*

PERTINENT POINTS ABOUT WEALTH FROM WASTE.

PAPER.

Economy in the use of paper will release vast quantities of chemicals which are urgently needed.

A pound of paper wasted means from 1 to 3 pounds of coal wasted.

Cutting down the use of paper 25 per cent would mean 6,000,000 tons less freight for the railroads to haul and would at the same time save 2,500,000 tons of coal.

Old magazines, books, stationery, etc., are used in making books, writing, and other forms of paper.

Paper that comes around purchases at the store is made over again into new paper, cardboard, cartons, paper boxes, paper bags, etc.

One hundred pounds of soft white paper shavings will make 90 pounds of new paper.

One hundred pounds of old magazine paper will make 80 pounds of new paper.

One and one-half million tons of book and writing paper were made last year from old paper.

One hundred pounds of old folded newspapers will make 85 pounds of new paper box board.

Two and one-half million tons of various kinds of paper box board were made last year from old papers.

COTTON AND WOOLEN RAGS.

One hundred pounds of old cotton rags will make from 65 to 75 pounds of paper pulp; this pulp will make only 2 per cent less than an equal amount of paper.

One hundred pounds of new cotton rags will make 80 pounds of paper pulp.

One hundred pounds of old collars, cuffs, pillowcases, or sheets will make 80 pounds of new paper.

Woolen rags are converted into shoddy and shoddy converted into wool. The shrinkage from shoddy to wool is the same as from raw wool to finished wool, namely, about 3 per cent.

One hundred pounds of wool saved or reclaimed provide sufficient material for 25 suits of clothes.

The National League for Woman's Service stands ready to cooperate in the waste-reclamation movement. We feel that this is one of the most vital forms of economic work to be carried on in this country.—*Grace Parker, National Commandant, National League for Woman's Service.*

METALS.

One hundred pounds of No. 1 scrap cast iron will make 96 pounds of new cast iron.

One hundred pounds of stove plate will make 90 pounds of new iron.

One hundred pounds of heavy melting steel scrap will make about 95 pounds of new steel.

One hundred pounds of scrap zinc will make about 75 pounds of new zinc.

One hundred pounds of scrap lead will make about 93 pounds of new lead.

One hundred pounds of aluminum castings, converted into ingots, will make 94 pounds of new aluminum.

Sheet aluminum scrap shrinks about 10 per cent and aluminum turnings from 15 to 25 per cent, while new clippings or cuttings shrink from 1½ to 3 per cent.

One hundred pounds of heavy scrap copper will make 95 pounds of new copper.

One hundred pounds of light copper will make 90 pounds of new copper.

SORTING AND BALING WASTE.

Low-grade waste paper.—Newspapers should be kept neatly folded in piles and should be tied in bundles, the same being true of all kinds of wrapping and tissue paper and pasteboard containers. This grade of paper should be baled.

High-grade waste paper.—Old books, magazines, catalogues, envelopes, writing and ledger paper should be kept separated, as they are worth more than the low-grade paper.

Rags.—Different kinds of rags should be kept in suitable bags.

Metals.—If possible the different kinds of metals should be separated, since, if this is not done, the seller will be paid the price for the lowest grade of metal.

A simple method of baling paper at home has been devised by the Lancaster, Pa., Waste-Reclamation Council. A box forms the basis of the baler. In this are placed two pieces of cord running across the box and two pieces at right angles to them. The rope should be loose enough to allow it to lie flat on the bottom of the box. Next line the box with paper, then fill it with waste papers, old newspapers, etc., and pack tightly. Cover the top with newspapers, bringing the cords together and tying them firmly. Lift the bale out of the box and it is ready for the junk man.

It appears to me that the education of the people in the principle and practice of waste reclamation is one of the very valuable by-products of the war. Out of our abundance had grown, in prewar days, a failure to recognize the value of thrift and saving. If, as one of the lessons of the war, our people have learned to save much of the material which is useful and valuable, and which has heretofore been wasted, a real source of national wealth will have been disclosed.—*Grosvenor Clarkson, Director Council of National Defense.*

SPEAKERS EMPHASIZE NECESSITY OF COUNCILS' WORK.

As illustrating the recognition by eminent Americans of the vital importance of the waste-reclamation work, and also as indicating the spirit, the economic significance, and the practical success of the movement, the following excerpts are given from addresses by Hon. William Howard Taft, former President of the United States, and Mr. Hugh Frayne, Chairman, War Prison Labor and National Waste-Reclamation Section, Labor Division, War Industries Board, delivered at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Washington, D. C., Waste-Reclamation Council, at Memorial Continental Hall, Thursday evening, November 21, 1918.

ADDRESS BY FORMER PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT.

I am glad to be here to-night because I am interested in this cause. I know the necessity for reclamation. We are just at the end of a war; technically, we are not through the war. We have expended billions and billions of dollars, and that expenditure represents a consumption of material and a consumption of labor. It represents the accumulation of the labor and work and energy and enterprise of millions of men and the exercise of the self-restraint involved in saving. There is a popular misconception, which is easy to fall into, that anything that comes out of the Government comes out of a vast reservoir—that the money is there and we can just spend it. As a matter of fact, not a dollar comes out of that reservoir that doesn't come out of some individual's pocket—I don't mean immediately, but I mean as you trace it back—not a dollar that doesn't represent energy and labor and enterprise and raw materials. Raw material has been used up, and that has been withdrawn from the resources of the Nation.

The expenditure of capital has been so enormous that in the end we are going to find conditions hard. And that result will come from the immense sacrifice of articles that have gone up in powder and explosion and destruction. Think of the destruction of material of all sorts—not in battle, not on the other side; think of the billions of treasure that lie at the bottom of the sea, not only the vessels themselves, but all the supplies, all the various raw materials, the

In mobilizing, utilizing, and regulating the industries of the country in order to obtain the maximum output of war material, there has been brought to light an enormous waste that is going on in the productive capacity of the country. There has also been brought to light the great waste that occurs through discarded material, as shown in the work of the National Waste-Reclamation Council. The work of this council should be further developed, in the interests of economy of material and labor.—*F. F. Fletcher, Rear Admiral, U. S. N., War Industries Board.*

food of all sorts. That reduces the general supply, and if we are going to restore that deficit we must begin to take measures at once to prevent further waste. It is said (and I have no doubt it is true) that with proper methods of economy, a French family could live on the food that an American family throws away. Now this movement is designed to change or moderate that national weakness. Its purpose is to bring home to our people the fact that, by a constant everyday effort, we can save millions and possibly billions in raw materials, or in that which, having served its purpose once, may be made a raw material to serve its purpose again. That is what this reclamation movement means. We know what can be done by cooperation and joint purpose with a definite, intelligent object—an object that can be brought home to the people. We know what can be done in the matter of food conservation, because we have tried it during the war with wonderful success. We know what can be done in the saving of gasoline. We remember and point with pride to our gasless Sundays. Now it is this spirit that this Reclamation Council would evoke. We have gone beyond the acute necessity of the war, and therefore we may not be as enthusiastic about this; but the American people have shown themselves willing to respond to a public call of this kind in a most gratifying way, and this should give courage to all who are interested in this most important movement.

I know something about the waste of paper. Paper, once used, is needed again. Wood is being consumed in the making of paper, forests are disappearing, paper is getting higher and higher; and it is a public necessity that it be saved. I regard paper as more important than anything else in the saving of materials, because the saving of it is not so full of profit as the saving of lead and iron and tin and the other things. The necessity of saving paper and rags needs to be impressed upon the public, not because of the profit that there may be, but because of the general purpose that may be served.

I hope this movement will show that the American people can adapt themselves to a new necessity. This war has accomplished much in defeating militarism, in destroying the junkers and the Hohenzollerns—at least destroying their power. But the good results of the war, we fondly believe, have not been confined to destroying that enemy of mankind that had grown up in the German people

The war has forcibly shown us that the accumulated savings of individuals in America affect the whole world. The movement for the reclamation of waste materials will, therefore, not only mean millions and millions of dollars to America through the saving and reclaiming of waste and the development of habits of thrift and conservation, but it will benefit the entire world.—*G. E. Scott, General Manager, American Red Cross.*

and their leaders. Its spirit should show itself in the self-training and self-discipline that the American people have had and in the awakening in them of fundamental virtues that had ceased to be prominent. Therefore I am sure those who are connected with this council feel that they are now appealing to a different people from that to which they might have appealed before this war, and I am confident that that appeal will not be made in vain.

ADDRESS BY MR. HUGH FRAYNE.

This war has taught us many useful lessons. It has taught us as a Nation that one of the greatest assets that we can have is in the reclamation of our waste material. It may not be generally known, but it is nevertheless true, that many times when our Army was fighting and our Allies going forward—fighting in defense of the liberties of the world—the implements of war that they were using were, in many instances, made from waste materials that had been reclaimed and that had formerly been thrown aside as absolutely worthless and useless. We have been learning that lesson from the great war that has now so happily closed. It will be of great value, not only to us at this time but to the generations that will follow, to reclaim the waste, remanufacture it, and pass it on again. Three or four years ago it would not have been possible to bring together such a distinguished audience as this for the purpose of listening to a discussion by speakers upon the subject of reclamation of waste materials. It would have appeared very undignified, and many would have associated such a gathering with that very much despised and misunderstood individual, the ragpicker and junk man. Yet in this great war drama all of us—the junk man and everyone else—have been doing our part as it has been given to us. Especially is this true of the reclamation of waste, the bringing of it from the various sections of the country to be made up quickly into the things that were most needed (many times badly needed) in order that our Army might be enabled to fight and bring victory to our country and to our Allies.

I have some figures here to-night that I believe will be very interesting to you. The total value of waste paper and cotton rags being reclaimed during the present year amounts to $200,000,000. The total value of all waste materials now being reclaimed amounts to more than $1,500,000,000. This amount can still be increased through our national salvage campaign by an additional $300,000,000.

We trust that the reclamation movement started during the war will continue during peace, as it is a very vital national necessity and means much to the economic and industrial life of the Nation. Scrap iron and steel form one of the most important elements in the manufacture of iron and steel products, and intelligent attention to this and other economies of like character will contribute much in the severe competitive condition that this country will face during the reconstruction period.—*J. L. Replogle, Director of Steel Supply, War Industries Board.*

That gives you some idea of the waste that has been overlooked and the possibility that lies before us in doing a great work in the interest of our Nation. What has been accomplished up to the present time is the strict indication and guaranty that we are going to be successful. During the most trying period of the war, when our committee learned that on the farms throughout the country there were stacks of waste material, principally metals, we immediately communicated direct and urged the farmers (through this communication and through the farm journals and through every other medium that could reach them) that as a patriotic duty, as well as one that would bring to them considerable return, this material should be turned in. Many times, not only now but in the future, you will find that your garment or some article used in your room or the bridge over which you walk has been reconstructed from the waste materials that formerly were carelessly thrown aside and were not considered of value. It is only when, through councils and meetings of this kind, we are able to present the figures obtained from the most reliable sources (obtained from experts who have made a careful study of this question) that we are able to pass this message along to the people of America, telling them that many of the things they have cast aside are not only of great value to them from a monetary standpoint but are of such value to the Nation that a definite dollars-and-cents basis can not be established for it. The value to the Nation as a whole transcends the merely monetary considerations.

A few days ago a young man from the Pulp and Paper Division of the War Industries Board was sent to Lancaster, Pa., in response to an urgent request that some one be sent there immediately to organize a Waste-Reclamation Council. He has returned, and, briefly, his report is that he has successfully organized the council, that the waste dealers of the city were called in, and that they entered upon an agreement in which prices were specified as follows: Waste paper, $0.50 per 100 pounds in small quantities, $0.75 per 100 pounds in large quantities; book-stock paper, $1 per 100 pounds; rags, $0.035 per pound; rags in small quantities, $0.025 per pound; rubber and iron, $1 per 100 pounds. The report is that 80 tons of book-stock paper and waste paper were salvaged in one week in that small community and that a bank in the city had returned to one of the mills near-by 25 tons of old books and waste paper

I have kept in touch with the activities of the National Waste-Reclamation Section of the Labor Division of the War Industries Board from the organization of the section, and I can not too strongly stress the importance of this work. The Nation should not forget, but rather should capitalize, the lessons of conservation and economy taught by the war, and should project these activities into peace conditions.—*Edwin S. Parker, Priorities Commissioner, War Industries Board.*

that had accumulated during the preceding 25 years. This, while it brought a money return to the bank people that is of small moment in itself, turned into the channels of industry material that will be made into other kinds of books—paper that will be useful to the Nation.

Our committee has been very active in connection with the salvage division of the Quartermaster's Department. We have been able to cooperate constantly with both the Army and the Navy, especially the Army, in connection with this work. I am going to give you a few figures as to what they have been able to accomplish in their reclamation work during the short period in which we have been engaged. During the past few months, or rather, from January 1 to October 1, 1918, there were reclaimed by the reclamation or salvage division of the Quartermaster's Department 1,892,088 blankets, 1,168,036 cotton breeches, 1,089,455 pairs of woolens, 595,965 cotton coats, 237,154 denim coats, 432,167 wool coats, 596,552 cotton underwear, 696,825 felt hats, 421,275 foot leggings, 89,835 overcoats, 1,062,336 flannel shirts, 266,322 cotton stockings, 403,097 wool stockings, 51,901 sweaters, 262,238 denim trousers, 576,736 undershirts, 2,779,343 shoes, 2,456,102 all other miscellaneous articles. This makes a total of 15,077,427 articles of all kinds reclaimed, valued at $20,000,000. And there was, during that time, a scarcity of wool, of cotton, of man power. The Army today has developed a system of reclamation that I hope will be continued; and I have no doubt that it will be, because of its great success.

I have some figures here that have been furnished me by a representative of one of the journals published in the interest of waste reclamation. It is a recognized authority upon that subject. It is estimated that the value of the waste-material business of the United States for this year will exceed one and one-half billion dollars. The railroads produce and sell approximately 50 per cent of the total production of scrap iron; in round figures their production of scrap iron during this year will amount to over $300,000,000. Authoritative statistics on the quantity of waste materials in the United States are impossible to obtain; the efforts on the part of the United States Government and trade organizations to ascertain or compile figures covering this subject have so far been unsuccessful. The Waste Trade Journal, whose representative I

Waste is wealth thrown away. The nation that wastes is a prodigal and must suffer in the end. The individuals that compose the nation should learn in time the value of thrift, economy, and the reclamation of waste.—*Miss Mabel T. Boardman, Member Executive Committee, American Red Cross.*

mentioned a moment ago, estimates the total value of waste material for the year 1918 as follows: Scrap iron, $600,000,000; scrap metal, $300,000,000; old waste paper and cotton rags, $200,000,000; woolen rags, $75,000,000; cotton and wool waste, $100,000,000; old rubber, $300,000,000; second-hand bags, $25,000,000; cotton linters, $50,000,000. It is estimated that the production of scrap iron for 1918 will amount to 17,000,000 tons.

In the paper-manufacturing industry we find that practically every piece of paper, with the exception of news print, is made out of old rags or paper stock. Every piece of ledger or wrapping paper is made from high-class cotton rags, and the great percentage of paper boxes and box board is made out of old and new waste paper. In woolen rags we find the raw material from which shoddy is made, and no matter how dirty it may appear, it is clean when compared with the raw wool that comes off the backs of sheep. The remanufacture of raw and finished products from waste materials will play a most prominent part in our export trade, as it will give our commercial interests a better competitive chance with the foreign countries without in any way affecting or changing labor conditions by lowering the standards of the workers.

There is a great work before us, and I hope that you will all join in the true spirit that we hope for in this great work. Let it not be said that we are the most wasteful nation in the world. Let us make it known that we are a nation of savers. Let us lead the world in showing how to save all waste material, so that it may go back into the channels of industry—giving employment to those who may work in the remaking—and the resulting articles, of all grades and for all purposes, may be employed in the useful pursuits of a peaceful people in a peaceful country. Let us lead in this movement, men and women of Washington. Join with this council. Take this message home, think it over, and then join in the work. It is not a work that will bring great financial return to the individual, but as an asset to the nation's wealth it is beyond price. In a few months, at most, we should have in every city, town, village, and hamlet a council organized, united in the one purpose that there shall be nothing wasted that can be used. May I ask that the slogan adopted by the War Prison Labor and National Waste-Reclamation Section of the Labor Division of the War Industries Board be adopted not only by the local council but by the people of the whole country? Let it be an international slogan to the peoples of the world: "Don't Waste Waste; Save It."

SUGGESTED PROCLAMATION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A CITY OR TOWN.

APPEAL FROM THE MAYOR.

Fellow citizens:

At the request of the United States Department of Commerce, I hereby entreat you to use every means to reclaim as much as possible of the materials needed by the industries of our country, since these are vitally essential in the pursuits of peace as well as the prosecution of war.

The materials desired at this time are: Paper, rags, metals, and rubber.

I beg to suggest that you search through garrets and cellars, reclaim such materials, and dispose of them at the fair prices established by the local Waste-Reclamation Council that I have appointed to carry on this work.

I urge that every possible cooperation be given this Council in its effort to fulfill the purpose of the American Government and help in supplying the needs of the Nation.

(Signed) JOHN SMITH,
Mayor.

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